



UK Corporate Games™
Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire
25 - 28 June 2015

This year's games were held in Staffordshire with sport venues at both Keele and Staffordshire Universities along with various other sports centres around the area. Following the success of last year Team IBM went big again with 166 competitors across 16 different sports, the 5th largest representation from any company in the UK.

Overall there were more than 5000 participants from a wide variety of IBM's partners, clients and rivals....it made for a very interesting weekend!

Things got started with Badminton, Squash, Tennis and Karting on the Friday morning. The Squash team started well with some good wins and would eventually end up with 2 medals, Simon Duns with Silver in the 30-39 group and Elissa Fontaine with Bronze in the Ladies Open. The Badminton team fared less well and the karting team were right up against it with some very quick drivers in attendance.

Kit Disaster!

The word had come on Thursday that there may be some issues with the delivery of kit and on Friday we got confirmation that it was stuck in a customs office in Barcelona whilst being shipped from China! A huge pity as we did not receive our custom made IBM kit, however the team used all their initiative to borrow and buy kit on the way to Staffordshire. All was quickly forgotten about as we kicked off the Friday welcome event and got stuck into a bar tab that just didn't seem to run out! Eventually at 11.30 we were kicked out and after attempting to set a new record for how many people could fit in one kitchen in Keele University halls it was off to bed for some and off to town for others!

Scorcher!

The majority of sports started early on Saturday on what was turning out to be a scorcher of a day. The hastily thrown together Cricket team took some early wickets and secured their place in the Sunday knock-out stages, the Hockey team also made it through to their knock-out stages.

The heat proved all too much for the Touch Rugby team in their somewhat fragile state, they were knocked out at the first hurdle. On the proper rugby pitch the 7s team were progressing well and would finish on Sunday with 3rd place overall in their delightful cow patch kit!

Things were also going well over at the stunning Trentham Gardens where Amandeep Uppal came second in the 5k run, followed not too far behind by Adam Gill in 5th. Katie Broadbent just missed out on the medals in the Ladies 10k, coming in fourth, a great effort in the heat! The Dragonboat team were also based here and were doing well against larger squads but ultimately would come away empty handed due to missing a few stalwarts of previous years.

With 5 IBM football teams across Mens and Ladies we had high hopes of some medals. All five teams made it through to finals day on the Sunday but unfortunately the Ladies finished just outside in 4th place whilst the highest finish on the Mens side was the 7-a-side A team coming away with a 5th place finish.

The Basketball team would also win on the Saturday and make it through to the quarter-finals on Sunday, only to lose to one of the semi-pro teams in attendance, they would come a very respectable 5th out of 16 overall. In the Table Tennis there was some stiff competition, Saad Hussain and Tom Simpson came a respectable 7th in the doubles.

For the first time we had two Netball teams, the B team unfortunately faced a very tough pool and didn't make it through to the knock-out stages, the A team did however got to Sunday and finished 6th overall.



The Great Games Party

The IBM team is known for its fancy dress but this year was truly another level with some exceptional efforts put in. The theme was the letter 'S' and we had scouts, sharks, soldiers, SWAT team, surfers, superheroes, surgeons, Spice Girls, safari animals, Spartans, Slytherins, Shrek, Star Trek.....and even a Scrabble set!

If you ever needed a reminder of how creative IBMers can be then look no further than below!



After a few too many drinks, some Touré brother chanting and general rowdiness it was off to bed, an early start calling those who had done well on the Saturday.

Sunday

There was a few bleary eyes at breakfast but all the teams made it on time. Tennis had a great return on the Sunday with 4 out of the 5 team members picking up medals, Terry Lawrence took silver in the Mens Singles 40-50, whilst team captain Jithesh Nair had the same result in the 30-40 category. Rebecca Stone came away with 2 silvers, one in the Women's Open and the second in the Doubles Open, playing with Olga Petrova.

Cricket finished in 6th overall whilst Hockey took 7th. Although Fraser Ashelby finished as chip leader on Saturday in the Poker he didn't quite maintain this on the Sunday and slipped out of the top 8. Karting

had 2 teams through to the finals of the team event but failed to place....it was always going to be hard against some very well-known luxury car brands and their professional test drivers!

Home Time

With a few bumps and bruises, some sunburn and the odd sore head it was time to head for home. Another epic weekend, some good results but more importantly fun had by all. From Interns to AP's and everything in between and from all LOBs, service lines and areas, this was IBM at its best!

Thanks to everyone for participating and to our supporters for their funding – David Stokes, Foundation, GTS, Consulting by Degrees and IBM Club.

